Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

ADP-00 OMB-01 RSR-01 AID-20 EB-11 SIL-01 LAB-06

TRSE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 SCI-06 DOTE-00 HEW-08 /173 W ----- 045868

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR: OCON: ECAFE:

SUBJECT: 29 TH SESSION ECAFE: APRIL 11

REF:#

SUMMARY: OPENING DAY OF ECAFE SESSION FEATURED BY SPEECH BY PM TANAKA (TEXT SENT SEPTEL) AND ECAFE EXSEC U NYUN. FORMER STRESSED DEVELOPMENT NEEDS FACING ECAFE VITAL REGIONAL ORGANIZATION WITH GOOD RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AS EVIDENCED BY NUMEROUS INSTITUTES. HIGH-LEVEL FORUMS. AND PROJECTS PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION. PRC, GIVEN WARM WELCOME BY U NYUN AND OTHER DELS, MADE BRIEF STATEMENT EXPRESSING COOPERATIVE SPIRIT. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER' S SPEECH. 29 TH SESSION ECAFE OPENED APRIL 11 WITH APPROPRIATE CEREMONY BY PRIME MINISTER TANAKA WHO DELIVERED SHORT ADDRESS IN WHICH HE TOUCHED ON REGION'S DEVELOPMENT **PROBLEMS**

AND INDOCHINA. NOTING THAT COUNTRIES OF REGION ARE NOW IN SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE, HE EMPHASIZED THAT IN ORDER TO SOLVE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT, SUSTAINED EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO MODERNIZE AGRICULTURE, USE WATER RESOURCES, PROMOTE LABOR INTENSIVE INDUSTRY

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AND PUBLIC WORKS, REFORM TAX SYSTEM AND IMPROVE EDUCATION AND TECH-

NOLOGICAL LEVELS. HE THEN SAID HE HEARTEDLY WELCOMED PEACE NOW BEING REALIZED IN INDOCHINA PENINSULA. JAPAN WAS READY TO COOPERATE IN ENSURING PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS LIFE FOR THOSE PEOPPLE, AND HE SUGGESTED THAT ECAFE SHOULD CONSIDER WHAT ROLE IT MIGHT PLAY IN THIS REGARD.

2. U NYUN'S ADDRESS. FOLLOWING PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTURE, EXSEC U NYUN GAVE HIS FINAL AND FULL ADDRESS TO ECAFE (TWENTY-TWO PAGES). THROUGHOUT PRESENTATION U NYUN PURSUED THEME THAT ECAFE WAS VITAL REGIONAL BODY WITH RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT IN ESTABLISHING MEKONG PROJECTS, ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, ASIAN HIGHWAY AND HOST OF LESSER INSTITUTES AND PROGRAMS. ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT ECAFE HAD PURSUED ITS OBJECTIVES IN AN ASIAN MANNER, SEEKING COOPERATION AND CONSENSUS

RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION. SPECIFIC POINTS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOLLW.

- 3. INTER- REGIONAL TRADE. U NYUN MADE SPECIFIC POINT THAT ADVERSE TRADE BALANCES, FOREX SHORTAGES, DEBT- SERVICING OBLIGATIONS, AND DEVELOPMENT LAGS WOULD NOT END UNTIL "NON- REQUIRED" IMPORTS FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE REPLACED BY INTRA- REGIONAL TRADE. DCS SHOULD ENCOURAGE THIS DEVELOPMENT TO AVOID FUTURE SEVERE CRISES ARISING FROM SOCIAL AND OTHER CONFLICTS.
- 4. ECONOMIC SITUATION. TURNING TO SITUATION IN ECAFE REGION DURING 1971-72, U NYUN GENERALLY SAW WORSENING OF COUNTRIES' ECONOMIC SITUATION DUE TO ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS OF RECESSIONS IN THE

DC'S AND POOR HARVESTS. GFV SCHEMES HAD NOT REALLY ASSISTED ECAFE COUNTRIES' EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY IN LABOR- INTENSIVE GOODS.

DESPITE POSITIVE EFFECTS OF GREEN REVOLUTION, MASS MALNUTRITION WAS BECOMING WORSE. DEVALUATIONS OF US DOLLAR HAD COMPOUNDED PROBLEM WITH TOTAL LOSS IN RESERVES OF \$2 BILLION TO ECAFE COUNTRIES.

5. INDOCHINA. U NYUN POINTED TO RELIEF, RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN INDOCHINA, AND SUGGESTED THAT ECAFE COULD IN VARIETY OF WAYS BE HELPFUL IN ORGANIZING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO THESE ENDS. ECAFE ITSELF OR MEKONG COORDINATING COMMITTEE, ASIAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND OTHER REGIONAL BODIES COULD PROVIDE SERVICES. ADDITIONALLY, ECAFE WITH THE UN, THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, THE WORLD BANK GROUP, AND THE ADB MIGHT ALSO PROVIDE AN INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THESE EFFORTS.

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6. REVIEW OF ECAFE'S ACTIVITIES IN 1972. U NYUN URGED THAT COMMISSION CONTINUE FINANCING ON LONG-TERM BASIS OF ASIAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING, ASIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE AND ASIAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION. ASAIN CLEARING UNION NOW OPERATIVE AND HE URGED OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO JOIN. ALSO URGED THAT ASIAN RESERVE BANK BE ESTABLISHED. THEN POINTED TO NUMBER

OF PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN WIDE VARIETY OF FIELDS, TIN RESEARCH CENTER, MINERAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CENTER, ENVIRONMENT

AND TRANSPORT, AS FURTHER EVIDENCE ECAFE'S ACTIVITIES.

- 7. PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. U NYUN EXTENDED WELCOME TO PRC IN SPIRIT OF BROTHERHOOD AND PARTNERSHIP. ALSO REFERRED FAVORABLY TO PRESENCE COOK ISLANDS AND COMMENDED REQUESTS FOR ASSOCIATION OF TTPI AND GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS. (COMMENTS: SUBSEQUENTLY PRC IN RECORDING VOTE OF THANKS, MADE MODEST STATEMENT IN WHICH IT EXPRESSED DESIRE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH OTHER STATES IN MEETING COMMON NEEDS OF REGION. OTHER DELS ALSO MADE FAVORABLE REFERENCE TO PRC.)
- 8. U NYUN'S CONTRIBUTIONS. IN CLOSING, U NYUN SAID HE FELT HE HAD CONTRIBUTED MODESTLY TO THE GROWTH OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES. FIRSTLY, HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO SET UP A NUMBER OF ESSENTIAL HIGH-POWERED BODIES ON MINISTERIAL LEVEL WHICH HAD LED TO THE ADB, ETC. AS WELL AS REVERSAL OF HIGH-LEVEL FORUMS SUCH AS CONFERENCES ON POPULATION, INDUSTRIALIZATION, AND SO ON. SECONDARILY, HE HAD EMPHASIZED NEED FOR COMMISSION TO MOVE BEYOND EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION INTO PROJECTS.
- 9. SESSION OFFICIALS. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR SENJIN TSURUOKA, ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE WITH VICE CHAIRMEN BEING THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM AUSTRALIA, THAILAND, INDONESIA, IRAN, NEPAL AND PHILIPPINES. INGERSOLL

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